

## Why Not This In El Paso?

A Paris Experiment—The House With Hanging Gardens—An Idea as Old as Babylon, but a Commercial Success Today.

TWO Parisian architects have undertaken to revive in modern Paris the hanging gardens of ancient Babylon.

The result of their work is seen in the photograph and diagram on this page, representing the interior plan and external appearance of a house which they have conceived. But the more popular name is "the house with the hanging gardens."

The architects point out that this is a true revival of the Babylonian style of construction, since the celebrated Hanging Gardens of Semiramis were simply the stepped-up front of a great palace, forming a series of retreating balconies which, instead of being used as simple piazzas, were treated as gardens full of flowers and shrubbery.

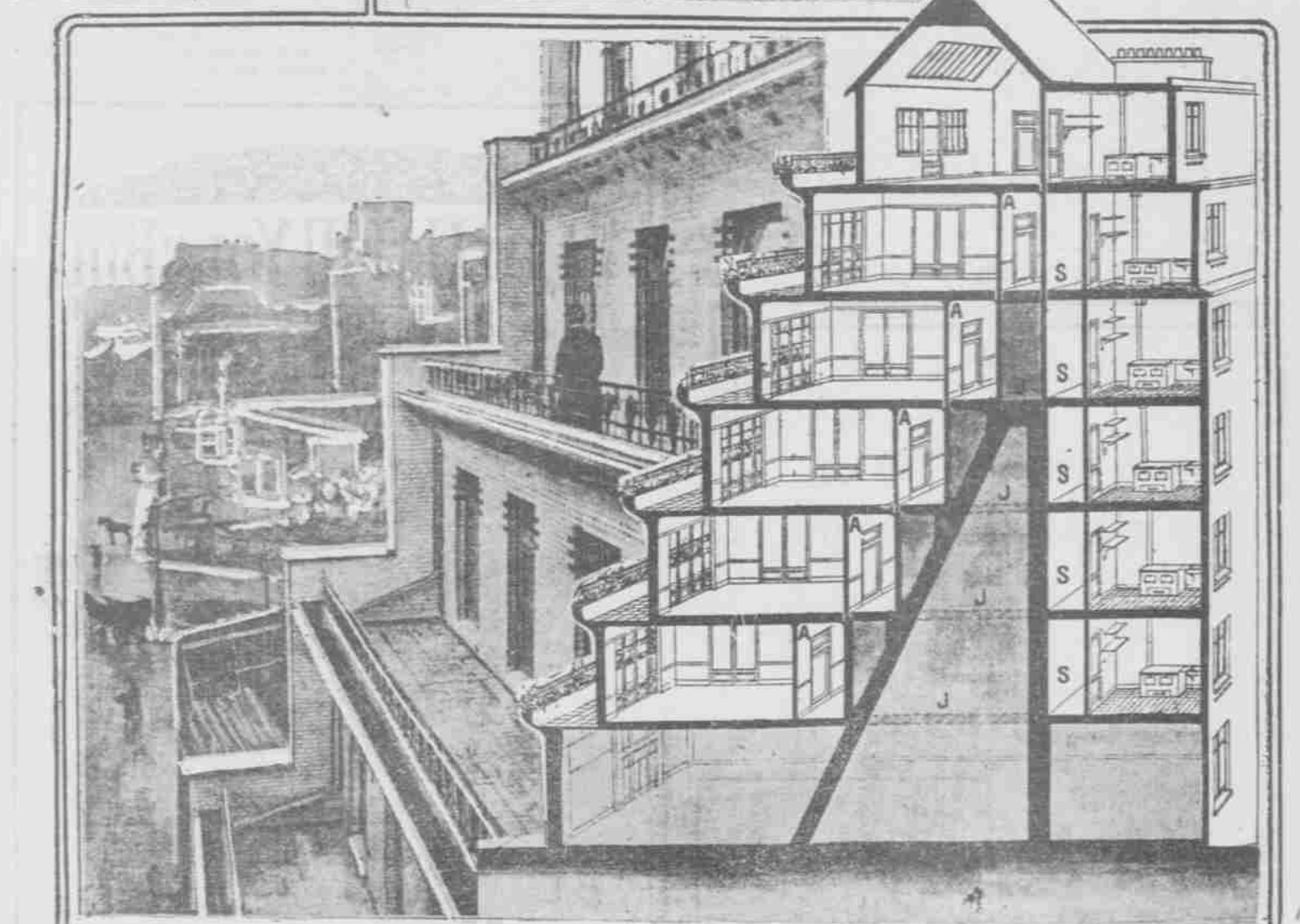
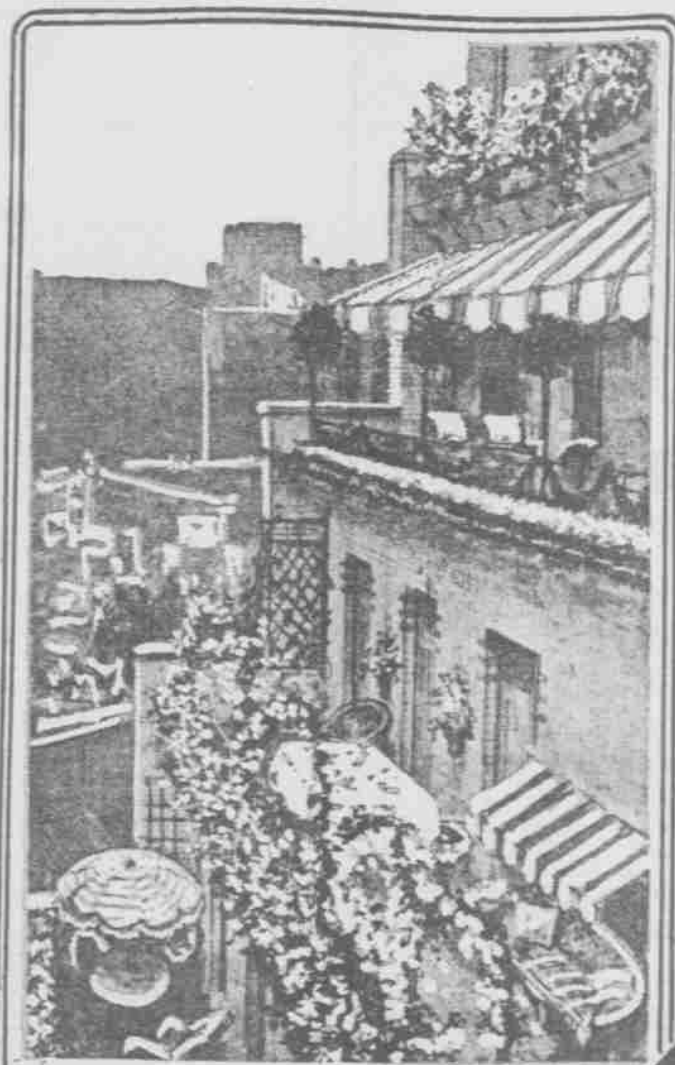
Above the ground floor there are six stories, each forming a complete set of apartments and each fronted with a terrace between seven and eight feet broad, whose outer edge is a border, more than two and a half feet wide, filled with pots and boxes in falopae, capable of containing a great variety of flowers and ornamental plants. Thus the inhabitants of each apartment, at any elevation, enjoy the effect of living on the ground floor with windows and doors opening directly into a garden.

It is apparent that the depth of the apartments diminishes in proportion to their elevation above the ground. But by carrying the base of the building sufficiently far back, the architects say, any serious objection of this kind can be avoided, especially in view of the great gain in attractiveness that the hanging gardens afford equally on every stage.

It is claimed for this style of apartment that not only does it afford better supplies of light and air to the tenants than ordinary perpendicular buildings can do, but that it is also an advantage to the street, which is better lighted and aerated than when shut in between vertical walls. In case of fire, too, the construction affords greater safety for the inmates, and increased facilities for the rescue of persons imperiled on upper floors.

The commercial success of the initial "Babylonian house" in Paris is established, for its apartments are fully occupied and would be tenants are met by the reply "no room left." But the mere novelty of the plan must not account for that, and it is hardly likely that so great an innovation will spread with rapidity. Still, it is surely a step in the movement which has now become world-wide for the improvement of the conditions of home life, and the wide adoption of this form of house in residence quarters would transform many an ugly street into a scene of strange beauty.

How "The House of the Hanging Gardens," in the Rue Vavin, Paris, Looks to the Passerby.



Here are two views of the house. There are two sets of corridors in each apartment, those marked "A" serving the living rooms in front and those marked "B" the kitchen, etc. Cross galleries "C" connect the two sets of corridors. To the left is a view of the exterior of the house.

## El Paso Has 2000 Union Workers; 31 Labor Organizations In the City

ORGANIZED labor in El Paso is stronger now than it has been at any time in the history of El Paso unionism. The various unions have more than 2000 members, the local organizations are strong financially and in membership, and the Central Labor union, the central organization of the local unions, has just completed a prosperous year.

Arrangements are being made for Labor day and the annual union strength of the city will appear in the annual parade and picnic which is held on this annual holiday of the workingmen. Labor day has always been an annual event in El Paso until last year when it was omitted from the schedule of celebrations. The new officers of the Central Labor union voted to resume the practice of celebrating the annual labor holiday and appointed committees to arrange for the parade and other events on that day.

Impetus Is Given to Unionism.

The selection of El Paso as the place for the location of a \$200,000 brick plant by the International Bricklayers' union has given an impetus to unionism in El Paso. The International Brick company has been organized with a capital stock of \$200,000 and has bought shale and clay beds on the New Mexico side of the river and a plant site in Cotton addition. A large brick and clay products plant is to be erected there to employ union

labor and to supply the local and southwestern trade with brick and other clay products.

Enterprising State Federation. El Paso entertained the Texas State Federation of Labor during the week of June 9. There were delegates here from all parts of the state and the representative men of Texas unionism were here and took a prominent part in the deliberations of the various local unions and the chamber of commerce. The visit of the Texas union men was of mutual benefit, as it showed the visitors what El Paso was as a city and a union stronghold and gave the El Paso union men an idea of what unionism meant in their native state.

Victor A. Lee, a member of the barbers' union, is president of the Central Labor union and Teddy McHoid is secretary-treasurer. These officers were elected recently and both are among the most active workers in the cause of El Paso unionism. Secretary McHoid was instrumental in organizing the clerks' union and the Mexican branch of this same union and he was selected for the important position of secretary-treasurer as a reward for his activities in union circles.

Unions of El Paso.

The officers of the various El Paso unions are: Barbers' union: Ed Levy, president; W. E. Larkin, secretary; L. M. Wadell, E. R. Moody and Tony Cabal, delegates. Butchers and Meat Cutters: M. H. Hoffman, president; J. L. Flores, secretary; J. L. Flores, E. M. Wilson, W. N. Martin, delegates. Brewery Workers: Harry Luthy,

president; W. A. Miller, secretary; R. A. Wilson, H. Tuttle, W. A. Miller, delegates. Bootmakers' union: William Beeson, president; Frank Ball, secretary; Frank Ball, J. M. Morgan, delegates. Blacksmiths' union: Robert Kyle, president; Thomas Hunter, secretary; Thomas Hunter and Robert Kyle, delegates. Carpenters' union: Victor A. Lee, president; C. N. Manning, secretary; V. A. Lee and C. N. Manning, delegates. Chauffeurs' union: R. E. Severance, president; H. E. Bowles, secretary; G. H. Stamp, J. E. Ellis and C. H. Smith, delegates. Cooks and Waiters' union: Thomas Carroll, president; E. D. Skinner, secretary; E. D. Skinner, Thomas Carroll and E. Lowe, delegates. Cigar makers' union: Jesus Gamero, president; Manuel Sanchez, secretary; T. Ortiz and F. Ross, delegates. Carpenters' union: A. R. Webb, president; J. B. Williams, secretary; R. C. Light, J. W. Ramo, E. E. Knight, delegates. Electric Workers' union, No. 583: A. W. Rogers, president; R. W. Walker, secretary; E. M. Walker, E. D. Davis, R. J. Gallin, delegates. Millers' union: W. P. Casares, president; W. S. Kilt, secretary; Abe Cohen and William Casares, delegates. Horsehoes' union: J. E. Burton, president; John C. Sanchez, secretary; J. C. Sanchez, T. P. Tooley, J. E. Burton, delegates. Machinists' union: George Mawhinney, president; J. Schwartz, secretary; G. Mawhinney, J. R. Weiner and A. N. Spalding, delegates. Musicians' union: J. W. Miller, president;

## El Paso Has 127 Miles of Water Mains and Supplies 7,400 Homes

(By FERRY McGUIRE, assistant superintendent of City Waterworks.) PURE water is an essential to the development of a city. El Paso has the purest and most abundant supply of domestic water of any city in the southwest. The municipal waterworks plant is valued at \$1,455,212, and will have a capacity of almost 18,000,000 gallons when the additions that are now being made are completed this fall.

To give El Paso taxpayers an idea of the city's holdings in the waterworks plant, something that few people ever stop to consider, a statement and analysis of the value of the plant would serve a good purpose here. The physical valuation of mains, etc., included in the city water plant are:

Physical Valuation of Plant.	
Real estate	\$242,490.00
Pumping stations, consisting of Mesa station, Old Watts station and Altura pump	223,134.68
Reservoirs	22,141.54
25 wells and conduits	158,145.12
Well drilling machinery	10,100.00
6500 meters	60,000.00
Total	\$784,912.34
Mains—	
16 inch	3.35
14 inch	68.45
12 inch	8.75
10 inch	2.16
8 inch	4.10
6 inch	23.33
4 inch	7.34
3 inch	1.97
2 inch	12.49
1-1/2 inch	7.59
1 inch	23.30
Total (inside city limits)	\$6.26
Mains	\$520,109.19
125 fire hydrants	24,034.62
2400 services	11,857.78
Valves	18,517.69
Stock on hand, tools, fixtures, wagons, teams, etc.	\$21,948.69
Grand total value	\$1,455,212.30
Million	
8 inch	1.35
6 inch	1.47
4 inch	3.49
3 inch	.48
2 inch	7.34
1-1/2 inch	2.71
1 inch	12.92
Total (outside city limits)	\$2,332

The mains are owned by the several additions.

Has 127 Miles of Mains. The city is today furnishing through 127 miles of water mains to 7400 customers. The present pumping capacity is as follows:

Mesa pumping station, fire and one-half million gallons per day. Increased pumping capacity for Mesa station this fall, four million gallons per day, making total capacity of the Mesa station fire and one-half million per day. Aside from this we have the pumping station, with a capacity of four million gallons per day, which is only used for household service and has not been so used for over two years.

Indicates Population of 74,000. In October, 1912, when the city took over the plant, there were only 4000 consumers. We expect to have 8200 consumers by January 1, 1915. The statistics compiled by the National Water Works association, the average city of 10 inhabitants to one service, El Paso has today 7400 services which means that we have in the city and suburbs 74,000 people and by the year 1915, will have more than 80,000 people.

The water supply is from wells averaging 600 feet in depth, located on the mesa from the city on a table land about 200 feet above the business portion of the city. The water is lifted from these wells by compressed air. This water on reaching the surface is emptied into underground conduits which convey the water to an underground reservoir from which the big pumps take and this force the water to the city. By this method of handling the supply the water never sees the light of day until it is turned on in the home, thus giving the people of this city a very pure and wholesome supply of water.

Five Wells in Reserve. Of the 25 wells now ready for service, we have not used at any one time more than 12, giving a reserve of five wells for emergency or increased demand.

The following is an analysis of the water furnished the city of El Paso:

Water Is Pure. El Paso city water shows the presence of no harmful matter from organic contamination. This is indicated by the low amounts of the following substances: Free ammonia, .005; nitrates, 1.9; nitrites, 0; required oxygen, 1.7. (Given in parts per million.) Due to the absence of any contaminating bacteria, there being no color, bacilli present in samples examined. All ground waters contain iron, and the iron waters (mineral salts) in solution, due to the solvent action of water as it passes through the various strata of the earth. This is especially true of waters in the southwest. There is, however, probably no water in this section containing a less amount of these salts than the El Paso water (averaging 20 grains per gallon), and these salts are all healthful.

Hypothetical Complications. Potassium chloride . . . 14.2 Sodium chloride . . . 14.2 Sodium sulphate . . . 77.5 Magnesium bicarbonate . . . 112.5 Calcium bicarbonate . . . 161.4 Iron and alumina . . . 4.8 Silica . . . 6.0 Sodium carbonate . . . 45.2 The above is for parts per 1,000,000. When one considers the source of El Paso's water and the manner in which it is handled, on the one hand, and some bottled and now called "mineral waters" on the other, it would seem to any fair minded person that there should be no criticism of the city supply.

We are now pumping, according to the record of July, 1913, 12,504,355 gallons, or an average of 1,042,030 gallons per day. We only used about 18 wells during July, with an average discharge of 142 gallons per minute for each well.

On March 10, 1913, the rate was reduced from 20 cents per 1000 gallons to a rate of 20 cents per 1000 gallons. The report for the year ending April 1, 1913, showed that the water department had overdrawn its account at the bank to the amount of \$51,000. With a reduction of 10 cents per 1000 gallons and this enormous deficit, the water department has met the issue and on July 1, 1914, paid off the debt and reduced the cost of water to 15 cents per 1000 gallons.

Some of the Betterments.

Some of the betterments giving greater efficiency in the different departments, are:

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